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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,114	09/17/2003	Howard W. Morgan	135-103 Filter	4723
31179	7590	02/22/2005	EXAMINER	
JAMES D. HALL BOTKIN & HALL, LLP 105 E. JEFFERSON BLVD. SUITE 400 SOUTH BEND, IN 46601			PHAM, MINH CHAU THI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	
DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/664,114

Applicant(s)

MORGAN, HOWARD W.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harris et al (5,643,451).

Harris et al teach a filter assembly comprising a vessel (12) and a filter element (14) wherein the vessel (12) has a sidewall (16) and a removable cover (20), an inlet (22), an outlet (24) in the vessel (12) for fluid flow through the vessel (12), a filter element (14) including a filter bag (14) having an opening seated in the vessel (12) between the inlet (22) and the outlet (24) for supporting the filter bag (14), and the bag ring including a sidewall terminating in an outturned peripheral flange (26) having a flexible bag ring with an outturned peripheral flange (26) and the flange (26) overlying and seated against the vessel sidewall shoulder (16) and the rib (28) fitting into the groove (30) in the vessel sidewall to secure the filter to the vessel (see col. 1, line 57 through col. 2, line 9).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on December 6, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that none of the cited references Morgan and Bounnakhom disclose "no groove in the vessel sidewall to receive the lip of the filter element". The

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Examiner now drops both Morgan and Bounnakhom references and newly introduces the Harris et al as the primary reference in the 102 rejection to show a filter assembly comprising a vessel (12) and a filter element (14) wherein the vessel (12) has a sidewall (16) and a removable cover (20), an inlet (22), an outlet (24) in the vessel (12) for fluid flow through the vessel (12), a filter element (14) including a filter bag (14) having an opening seated in the vessel (12) between the inlet (22) and the outlet (24) for supporting the filter bag (14), and the bag ring including a sidewall terminating in an outturned peripheral flange (26) having a flexible bag ring with an outturned peripheral flange (26) and the flange (26) overlying and seated against the vessel sidewall shoulder (16) and the rib (28) fitting into the groove (30) in the vessel sidewall to secure the filter to the vessel (see col. 1, line 57 through col. 2, line 9), as claimed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been thoroughly considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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February 17, 2005